

EVA: I don't understand what you mean.

HELGA: You are wasting a chance hardly anyone else has been given.

EVA: I will come.

HELGA: Will you?

EVA: If you want me to.

HELGA: If I want you to?

EVA: Just not yet.

HELGA: Do you want to come to make a new life with me?

EVA: You keep asking me that.

HELGA: Do you?

EVA: It's hard for me.

HELGA: I lost your father. He was sick and they put him in line for the showers. I saw it. You know what I say to you. I lost him. But I did not lose myself. Nearly a million times over, right on the edge of life, but I held on with my bones rattling inside me. Why have you lost yourself, Eva?

*Ship's horn sounds out.*

HELGA: I am going to start again. I want my daughter Eva with me. If you find her, Evelyn, by any chance, send her over to find me.

*HELGA embraces EVA who stands stock still. HELGA picks up her case and starts to walk away. EVA stands shaking silently.*

← **START**

EVELYN: Quietly, There are four types of daughters: wise, bad stupid and the ones who do not know what to ask.

HELGA: *Turning round,* Which are you?

EVELYN: I wish you had died.

HELGA: I wish you had lived.

EVELYN: I did my best.

HELGA: Hitler started the job and you finished it.

EVELYN: Why does it have to be my fault?

HELGA: You cut off my fingers and pulled out my hair one strand at a time.

EVELYN: You were the Ratcatcher. You had his face.

HELGA: You hung me out of the window by my ears and broke by soul into shreds.

EVELYN: You threw me into the sea with all your baggage on my shoulders.

HELGA: You can never excuse yourself.

EVELYN: How could I swim ashore with so much heaviness on me? I was drowning in leagues and leagues of salty water.

HELGA: I have bled oceans out of my eyes.

EVELYN: I had to let go to float.

HELGA: Snake! Slithering out of yourself like it was an unwanted skin. Skinless snake! Worm!

EVELYN: What right have you got to accuse me? What right did you have to claim me back and hate me when I wouldn't come?

HELGA: My suffering is monumental. Yours is personal. Mine is a mountain. Yours is a tiny mound.

EVA exits.

EVELYN: What about what you did to me! *She starts to lose control*, You should have hung on to me and never let me go. Why did you send me away when you were in danger? No one made you! You chose to do it. Didn't it ever occur to you that I might have wanted to die with you? Because I did. I never wanted to live without you and you made me! What is more cruel than that? Except for coming back from the dead and punishing me for surviving on my own.

← END

EVELYN sobs. FAITH enters.

FAITH: To EVELYN, Are your crying?

FAITH tries to get close to EVELYN. EVELYN does not turn to face FAITH.

FAITH: What can I do for you? Please tell me what I can do to help?

EVELYN: Stay my little girl forever.

FAITH: I can't

EVELYN: Then there's nothing you can do.

FAITH: I'm going to find out everything I can. Get in touch with my relatives. I want to meet them.

EVELYN: You'll find them very different.

FAITH: I'm sure they'd have to see you too.

EVELYN: I have nothing in common with them and neither do you.

FAITH: I want to put that right.

EVELYN: I don't want you to bring trouble onto yourself.

FAITH: There won't be any trouble.

EVELYN: You don't know..

FAITH: We can do this together. It would make us closer to each other.

EVELYN: I'd rather die than go back.

FAITH: You might change your mind.

EVELYN: I can't.

HELGA exits.

FAITH: *Going to another box*, Can I have my toys?

EVELYN: Surely you can leave those here.

FAITH: I want to take them with me.

EVELYN: I'd like to keep something from when you were little.

FAITH: They mean a lot to me.

EVELYN: Take them.

FAITH picks up the box of toys.

EVELYN: We're all done in here then.

FAITH: Yes we are.

FAITH exits. The shadow of the RATCATCHER covers the stage.

END PLAY